

DAILY IOWAN : Thursday, Jan 19, 1967

FOIA b3b

Soapbox Speakers Discuss Presence Of CIA Interviewer

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The theme of Soapbox Sound Wednesday was the controversy over one of the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) agents being on campus for job interviews.

An audience of about 150 persons gathered in the Union oldfeather Lobby to see the show.

The usual soap opera players were on hand when the first speaker, Marc Firstenberg, Alton, N.Y., mounted the soapbox stage. He announced that the show would concern "the case of the secret agent man." The other speaker sharing the billing with Firstenberg was Richard Dickens, E3, Davenport.

A large supporting cast exchanged sarcastic dialogue with the four stars of the show, but few left the audience to speak from the stage.

Most of the audience and cast wore coats because of the cold air which came into the lobby each time the doors were opened.

The four speakers used strong language in letting their views be heard concerning the CIA agent.

One patriotic speaker, Firstenberg, said that students should picket outside the building where the CIA agent was in an attempt to block those who were to be interviewed. He compared this protest to the colonists' blocking the British at the Battle of Concord.

Dickens disagreed with this act of patriotism and suggested that the Union set aside a special room for the protesters to protest in.

"They could have sit-ins, lie-ins, and could march around the room picketing themselves and have a helluva good time without bothering the rest of us," he said.

Many times during the show they ad-libbed instead of sticking to the script.

Such changes as "What were the current campus scum fashions?" and "Is Denmark an island or a peninsula?" were commonplace.

At one point the show took on a religious tone when one of the speakers made four irreverent references to the Diety in less than a minute.

Profanities, shouting, and name-calling dominated the action throughout the show.

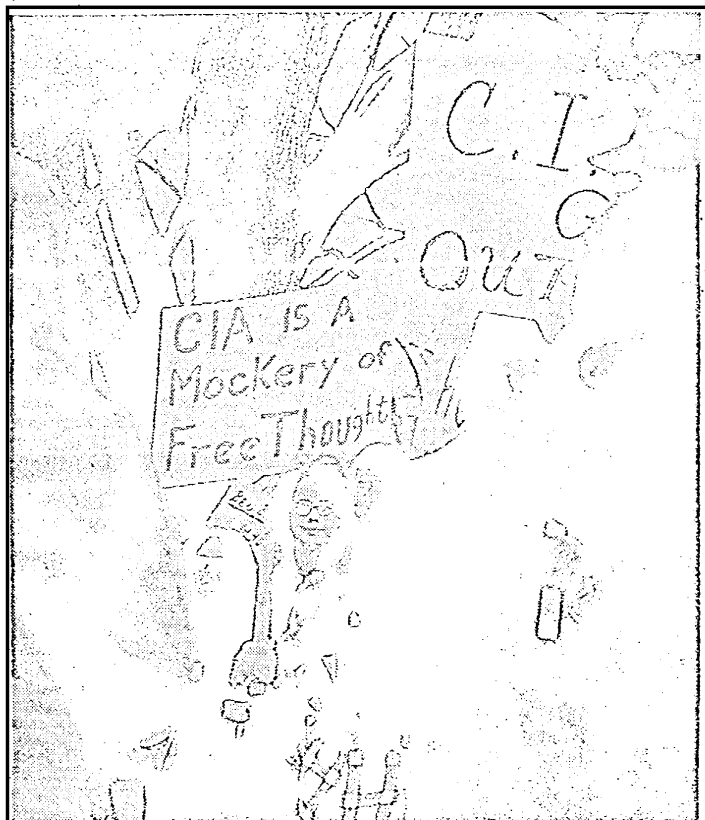
The climax was reached when many in the audience left for 1:30 classes or to go someplace where it was warmer, and the protesters left to picket the CIA agent's headquarters.

At the end of the show someone suggested a way of protesting those who were protesting. He told the audience that "when the scum have a lie-in, we should have a lie-on."

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CPYRGHT



STUDENTS PROTESTING THE PRESENCE of a CIA recruiter on campus picket Gilmore Hall Temporary A, where student interviews were being held Wednesday afternoon. A dozen sign-carrying demonstrators braved low temperatures to protest the CIA visit, which they contend is a "mockery of academic honesty." There were no interruptions in interview scheduling, according to CIA recruiter Charles Pecinovsky.

— Photo by Marlin Levison